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NEWS RELEASE

State files 7 felony tax-related charges against St. George business owner

June 10, 2010

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A St. George businessman was arrested Wednesday on seven second degree felony counts for failure to remit sales taxes to the Utah State Tax Commission.

Douglas J. Holt, 54, operator of 3-H River Turf Farm, was charged with seven counts of unlawful dealing by a fiduciary.

The state alleges Holt failed to remit more than \$300,000 in collected sales taxes between 2004 and 2007.

“Our investigation revealed that Mr. Holt had filed sales tax returns showing that he had collected sales taxes from customers, but repeatedly refused to remit them,” said Charlie Roberts, Tax Commission spokesman.

The investigation also showed that Mr. Holt withheld payroll taxes from his employees but intentionally failed to remit at least \$74,000 in payroll taxes to the Tax Commission on behalf of his employees.

Theft and fraud of taxpayers’ funds are diligently investigated by the Tax Commission’s criminal investigation unit and prosecuted by the Attorney General’s office.

Roberts added, “Those who commit theft and fraud of state taxpayers’ funds victimize the citizens of the State of Utah through lost revenue used to pay for essential public services.”